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Security Council

Sixty-fifth year

Provisional

6445th meeting

Tuesday, 14 December 2010, 10.20 a.m.

New York

President	Ms. Rice	(United States of America)
Members	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Wang Min
	France	Mr. Briens
	Gabon	Mr. Moungara Moussotsi
	Japan	Mr. Arima
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Mexico	Mr. Puente
	Nigeria	Mr. Onemola
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Mr. Apakan
	Uganda	Mr. Rugunda
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Quarrey

Agenda

The situation in Cyprus

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2010/605)

Report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/2010/603)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Cyprus

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2010/605)

Report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/2010/603)

The President: Members of the Council have before them document S/2010/631, containing the text of a draft resolution submitted by China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

Members also have before them documents S/2010/605 and S/2010/603, respectively containing the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus and the report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it.

I should like to inform the Council that the presidency of the Council has met with the representatives of the parties, who have confirmed that they maintain their well-known positions vis-à-vis the item on the Council's agenda. On the basis of those meetings, with the consent of the members of the Council, the presidency has drawn the conclusion that the Council can proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, France, Gabon, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Against:

Turkey

The President: There were 14 votes in favour and one against. The draft resolution has been adopted as resolution 1953 (2010).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements after the voting.

Mr. Apakan (Turkey): I would like to briefly share with the Council the reasons that compelled us to vote against resolution 1953 (2010) today.

Since the adoption of resolution 186 (1964), which set up the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), all Council resolutions extending the mandate of the Force are unfortunately still being drafted as if there were only one side on the island.

There has not been a joint and constitutional Government representing the whole of Cyprus since 1963. Treating the Greek Cypriot Government as the Government of the whole island has been the main obstacle in the way to finding a just, lasting and comprehensive solution for over 46 years. For all those years, Turkey has stressed that the consent and cooperation of the two sides are backdrop principles for the success of the peacekeeping operation. Unfortunately, this erroneous practice has been corrected neither in the previous resolutions nor in today's.

Although the resolution contains some elements that encourage increased momentum in the negotiations, it is short of reflecting the observations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices (S/2010/603), in which he underlines, inter alia, that the talks cannot be an open-ended process and that a critical window of opportunity is rapidly closing. We believe that the resolution should have carried a stronger message to that end.

That also applies to the support given to the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alexander Downer. We believe that, by only welcoming his efforts, the Security Council has not rendered its full support to Mr. Downer at this very critical juncture in the negotiating process.

We welcome the Secretary-General's determination to keep UNFICYP under close review and to work on contingency planning. However, his intention to conduct a broader assessment, which he strongly emphasizes in both his reports, unfortunately is not in any way reflected in the resolution. That is yet

another important shortcoming as far as the resolution is concerned.

I would like to reaffirm that the Turkish side has implemented and will continue to implement the provisions of the relevant resolutions. We believe that achieving a mutually acceptable and comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem within the established United Nations parameters, which will safeguard the fundamental and legitimate rights and interests of two peoples on the island, is possible and within reach.

The parameters of a solution in Cyprus are known. There is a substantial body of work. Turkey sincerely hopes that the two sides will show the necessary political will to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion. In that respect, Turkey will continue to fully support the Secretary-General in his efforts and to cooperate with UNFICYP.

The President: The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.